SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
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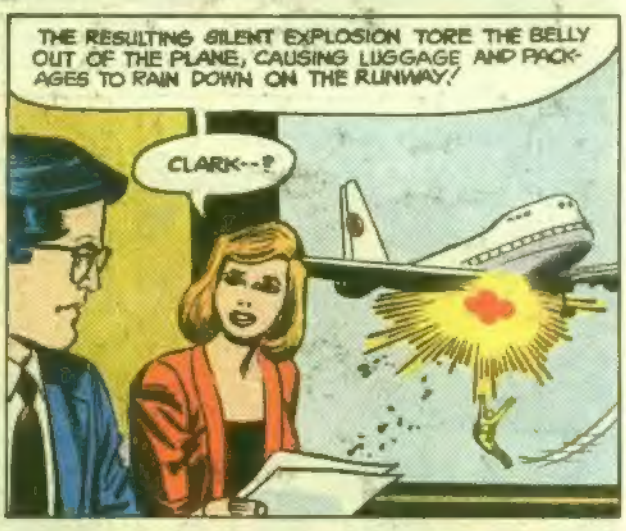
THE DAY THE EARTH EXPLODED!
GET THE GIFFEN LEGION™ POSTER!
ANOTHER
FIRST!

I'M CLARK KENT WITH LANA LANG AT THE CHANNEL 8 NEWSDESK WITH A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE HAPPENINGS AT METROPOLIS AIRPORT THIS MORNING!
CHANNEL 8
WGBS
LANA--?
THANKS, CLARK! THE EXCITEMENT BEGAN JUST AS A 767 FROM CAIRO WAS COMING IN FOR A LANDING...


THE RESULTING SILENT EXPLOSION TORE THE BELLY OUT OF THE PLANE, CAUSING LUGGAGE AND PACKAGES TO RAIN DOWN ON THE RUNWAY!
CLARK--?

AS IS OFTEN THE CASE, THANKFULLY, HERE IN METROPOLIS, WHEN TROUBLE ARISES, SUPERMAN IS ON HAND TO SAVE THE DAY!
WHICH HE DID, GIVING THE DISABLED JET MUCH-NEEDED HELP IN LANDING!

UNFORTUNATELY, THE MAN OF STEEL WAS NOT AS SUCCESSFUL IN APPREHENDING THE CAUSE OF THE NEAR-CATASTROPHE!
BEFORE SUPERMAN COULD DO ANYTHING, THE VILLAIN VANISHED IN A BLINDING BURST OF ENERGY!

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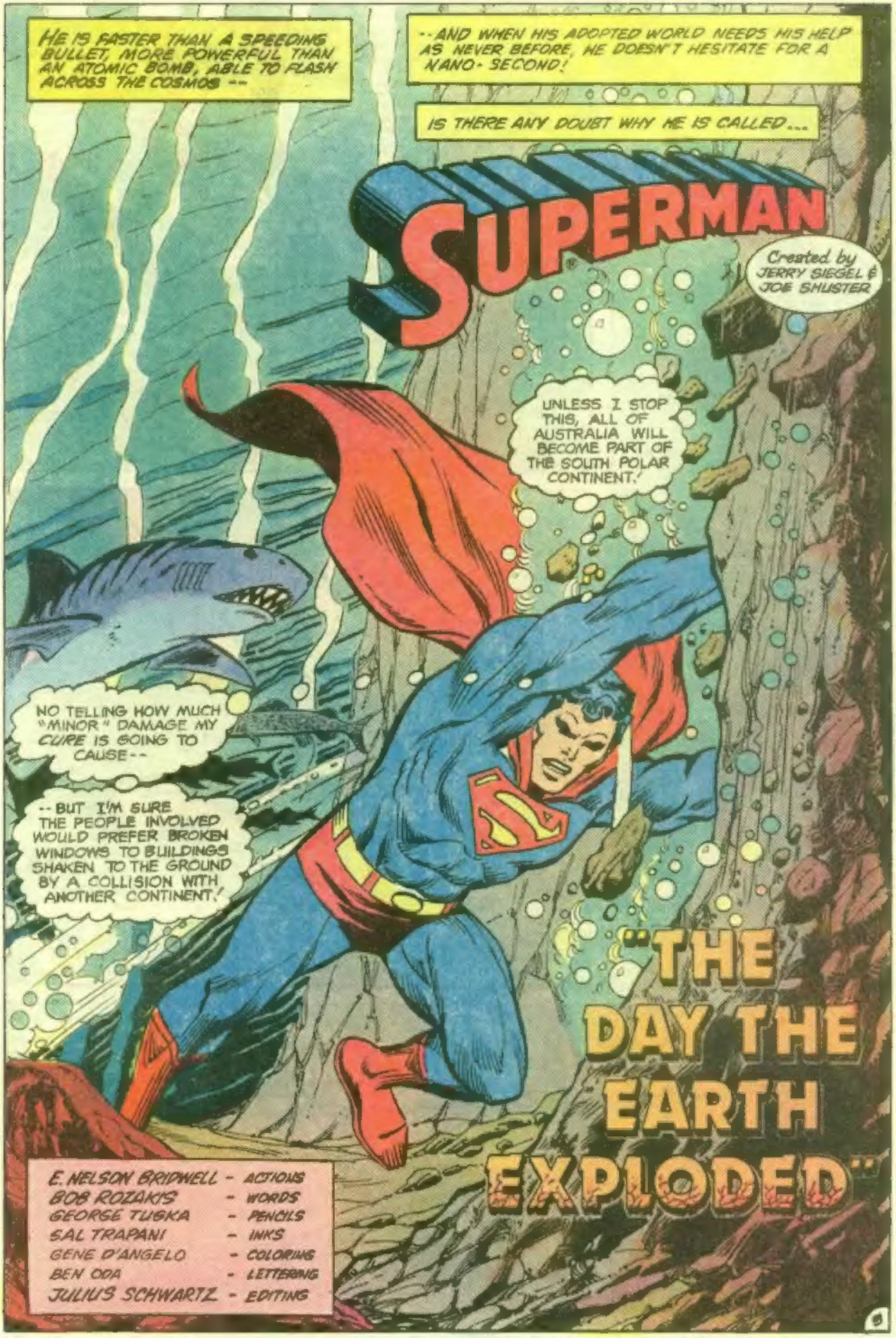
WE'LL BE BACK WITH EYEWITNESS REPORTS--
WGB
JUST A MOMENT, LANA--WE'VE GOT A NEWS-FLASH!
WE'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD OF AN ENORMOUS UNDERWATER ERUPTION NORTH OF NEW GUINEA!
SCIENTISTS MONITORING IT REPORT THAT IT IS FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY EXPLOSION--NATURAL OR MAN-MADE--EVER FELT ON THIS PLANET!
A JOB FOR SUPERMAN IF EVER THERE WAS ONE...
...AND ONE I'LL HAVE ONLY TWO MINUTES OF COMMERCIALS TO COMPLETE!
I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO TELL YOU, CLARK! MY FATHER WAS ON THE PLANE--
--CLARK?
JOSH, WHERE'D HE GO?
TOOK OFF LIKE A BAT, LANA! MAYBE TO FOLLOW UP ON THE ERUPTION STORY!
"BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LET IT BOTHER MY ULCERS! WHEREVER HE WENT, HE'LL POP BACK IN TWO SECONDS BEFORE WE'RE ON THE AIR!"
SURE GLAD JOSH HAS FAITH IN ME!
MY SUPER-VISION'S ALREADY SHOWN ME THIS IS GOING TO BE QUITE A JOB!
GREAT KRYPTON! THE FORCE OF THE ERUPTION HAS SET THE "PLATE"* NEW GUINEA IS SITTING ON MOVING SOUTHWARD!
THIS "CONTINENTAL DRIFT" WOULD NORMALLY TAKE MILLIONS OF YEARS TO OCCUR, BUT AT THIS SPEED, IT'LL HAPPEN IN MERE MINUTES!
BUT I DON'T SEE ANY VOLCANO--ONLY THE CLOUD CAUSED BY THE BLAST!
* A TECTONIC PLATE, ONE OF MANY PORTIONS OF EARTH'S CRUST ON WHICH LAND MASSES REST, AND WHICH SLOWLY MOVE, CAUSING THE LAND MASSES TO "DRIFT" ACROSS THE PLANET'S SURFACE OVER MILLIONS OF YEARS.
--JULIE
2


HE IS FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET, MORE POWERFUL THAN AN ATOMIC BOMB, ABLE TO FLASH ACROSS THE COSMOS --
--AND WHEN HIS ADOPTED WORLD NEEDS HIS HELP AS NEVER BEFORE, HE DOESN'T HESITATE FOR A NANO-SECOND!
IS THERE ANY DOUBT WHY HE IS CALLED...
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
UNLESS I STOP THIS, ALL OF AUSTRALIA WILL BECOME PART OF THE SOUTH POLAR CONTINENT.
NO TELLING HOW MUCH "MINOR" DAMAGE MY CURE IS GOING TO CAUSE--
--BUT I'M SURE THE PEOPLE INVOLVED WOULD PREFER BROKEN WINDOWS TO BUILDINGS SHAKEN TO THE GROUND BY A COLLISION WITH ANOTHER CONTINENT!
"THE DAY THE EARTH EXPLODED"
E. NELSON BRIDWELL - ACTIONS
BOB ROZAKIS - WORDS
GEORGE TUSKA - PENCILS
SAL TRAPANI - INKS
GENE D'ANGELO - COLORING
BEN ODA - LETTERING
JULIUS SCHWARTZ - EDITING

THERE--THAT STOPS NEW GUINEA AND AUSTRALIA FROM SAILING SOUTH FOR THE WINTER!
NOW TO CHECK OUT THE "TRAVEL AGENT" THAT BOOKED THEM ON THIS TRIP!
HMM--"ABLE TO LEAP SMALL CONTINENTS IN A SINGLE BOUND!" I LIKE IT!
WHATEVER IT WAS--ERUPTION...EXPLOSION ...SEAQUAKE--IT'S OVER NOW!
NOTHING HERE TO INDICATE THAT IT WAS A NATURAL OCCURRENCE--NO VOLCANIC ASH OR DEBRIS!
IN FACT, DESPITE THIS CLOUD OF WATER VAPOR, THE AIR IS CLEANER THAN IN MOST PARTS OF THE WORLD!
SO, WITH NATURAL CAUSES RULED OUT, THAT LEAVES MAN-MADE --BUT THERE'S NO RADIATION AT ALL!
NOT EVEN A GENIUS LIKE LEX LUTHOR COULD COME UP WITH A BOMB THAT EFFICIENT!
WHICH MEANS... WHAT?
A QUESTION THE METROPOLIS MARVEL DOES NOT HAVE TIME TO PONDER RIGHT NOW...
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CONTINUED ON THE PAGE FOLLOWING

... BECAUSE, TWO SECONDS LATER--
I'M BACK!
WHAT'D I TELL YOU, LANA? WHY SHOULD I GET UPSET?
JUST BE LIKE "MR. COOL-CALM-COLLECTED" HERE AND LIFE'S A BREEZE!
UNTIL THE DAY HE DOESN'T GET BACK IN TIME, LUV!
I'VE JUST BEEN HANDED A FURTHER UPDATE ON THE ERUPTION IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC!
SUPERMAN HAS BEEN REPORTED ON THE SCENE AND ALL DAMAGE AVERTED! THE SOURCE OF THE ERUPTION HAS NOT YET BEEN IDENTIFIED!
I CAN JUST IMAGINE WHO HANDED CLARK THAT UPDATE!
AND WHEN THE NEWSCAST HAS ENDED...
NICE JOB ON THAT ERUPTION STORY, CLARK! YOU EVEN SCOOPED ALL THE WIRE SERVICES GBS IS HOOKED UP TO!
BUT I'VE GOT YOUR GIMMICK ALL FIGURED OUT!
OH--?
SURE-- YOU CONTACTED SUPERMAN SOMEHOW AND SENT HIM FLYING OFF TO NEW GUINEA! THEN HE SENT YOU A "LIVE REMOTE" VIA HIS SUPER-VENTRILOQUISM!
CAN'T PUT ONE OVER ON YOU, CAN I, LANA?
EVEN THOUGH YOU SCOOPED ME, I'LL LET YOU IN ON A STORY I'VE GOT AN EXCLUSIVE ON -- MY FATHER'S LATEST ARCHEOLOGICAL FIND IN EGYPT!
THERE'LL BE A PRIVATE "UNVEILING" FOR US TOMORROW MORNING AT THE METROPOLIS MUSEUM!
"BE THERE AT NINE O'CLOCK SHARP, OR YOU'LL BE WAITING IN LINE TO SEE IT WITH THE TOURISTS!"
AND YOU'RE SURE THERE'S NO WAY IT COULD HAVE BEEN PLANTED AT THE SITE, DAD?
5

LANA, I'VE BEEN DIGGING THINGS UP SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN! I'D KNOW IF SOMEBODY WAS "SALTING" MY DIG!
THERE'S SOMETHING AWFULLY FAMILIAR ABOUT THIS DISK, PROFESSOR LANG!
YOU'RE RIGHT, JIMMY! IF IT WERE INTACT, THE DISK WOULD SHOW THE ORBITS OF ALL THE PLANETS IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM!
BUT WHAT MAKES THIS REALLY REMARKABLE IS THAT THE DISK WAS MANUFACTURED 220 MILLION YEARS AGO!
SOMEBODY WAS RUNNING A DINOSAUR-AGE PLASTICS FACTORY?
SO IT APPEARS, CLARK!
PARDON ME IF I SOUND LIKE I'M TRYING TO STEAL YOUR THUNDER, PROFESSOR, BUT WHAT I MEANT WHEN I SAID THIS DISK LOOKED FAMILIAR...
...IS THAT MY DAD FOUND SOMETHING JUST LIKE IT BEFORE HE RETIRED FROM ARCHEOLOGY!
UNFORTUNATELY, THE GRANT HE HAD BEEN WORKING UNDER RAN OUT AND HE WAS UNABLE TO EXAMINE IT FURTHER!
IN FACT, HE GAVE IT TO ME SO I COULD HAVE SUPERMAN CHECK IT OUT! IT'S BEEN SITTING IN A BOX IN MY CLOSET FOR MONTHS!
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO YOUR FATHER, JIMMY, I DOUBT THAT THE FINDS ARE THE SAME!
I GUESS SO! AFTER ALL, DAD FOUND HIS ON THE WEST COAST OF SOUTH AMERICA!
THEN I SERIOUSLY DOUBT CLARK'S "DINOSAUR-AGE PLASTICS FACTORY" HAD TRANS-ATLANTIC DELIVERY ROUTES!
NOW, DO YOU FOLKS WANT YOUR EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS, OR SHALL I CALL THE METROPOLIS EAGLE?
SUDDENLY...
HEY, GUYS, TURN DOWN THE LIGHTS! IT'S NOT THAT DARK IN HERE!
6

THE OTHERS MAY BE BLINDED BY THIS INTENSE LIGHT, BUT I CAN SEE A FAMILIAR FIGURE COMING THROUGH THAT HOLE IN THE WALL!
AFTER FRUITLESS HOURS OF TRYING TO FIND THE EXPLODER, HE ENDS UP COMING TO ME!
OF COURSE IT WON'T BE CLARK KENT WHO'LL DEAL WITH THIS MYSTERIOUS CHARACTER--!
FUNNY, I'M CHANGING RIGHT IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY, BUT THIS LIGHT IS SO BRIGHT, THEY CAN'T SEE ME!
HEY! CAN ANYBODY FIND THE LIGHT-SWITCH?
YOUR PROBLEMS AREN'T CAUSED BY KLIEG LIGHTS, JIMMY! JUST STAY WHERE YOU ARE!
SUPERMAN!?
NO TIME TO CHAT-- I'VE GOT A SUPER-CRIMINAL TO DEAL WITH RIGHT NOW!
WHERE?! TELL ME WHERE TO AIM MY CAMERA! IF I MISS OUT ON THE PICTURES, PERRY WHITE'LL KILL ME!
TO YOUR LEFT, JIMMY!
EXIT
AS FOR YOU, EXPLODER, IT'S TIME WE PUT AN END TO YOUR LIGHT-SHOW!
7

HUNH? WHAT KIND OF AN EXPLOSION WAS THAT? NO SOUND AT ALL... JUST THE BREAKING GLASS!
AND ITS ENTIRE FORCE WENT IN ONE DIRECTION... INSTEAD OF SPREADING OUT EQUALLY FROM THE SOURCE!
THAT MAKES A COUPLE EXTRA QUESTIONS I'LL HAVE TO ASK THIS CHARACTER WHEN I BRING HIM DOWN TO EARTH!
TRYING TO MAKE A SUPER-SPEED GETAWAY--
--BUT THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MATCH ME IN A RACE IS THE FLASH!
THIS IS ONE CONTEST YOU'RE GOING TO--
--WIN?!
GREAT RAO! THAT'S THE SECOND TIME IN TWO DAYS THE EXPLODER PULLED HIS DISAPPEARING ACT ON ME!
AND THE ARTIFACT WAS ON THAT PLANE HE ATTACKED YESTERDAY--SO IT WAS DEFINITELY WHAT HE WAS AFTER!
IT'S A CLEAN GETAWAY! MY SUPER-SENSES CAN'T PICK UP HIS TRAIL!
THE EXPLODER HAS DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE--
--WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT LANA AND COMPANY WILL BE SAYING ABOUT CLARK KENT IF I DON'T GET BACK TO THE MUSEUM IN A HURRY!
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CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

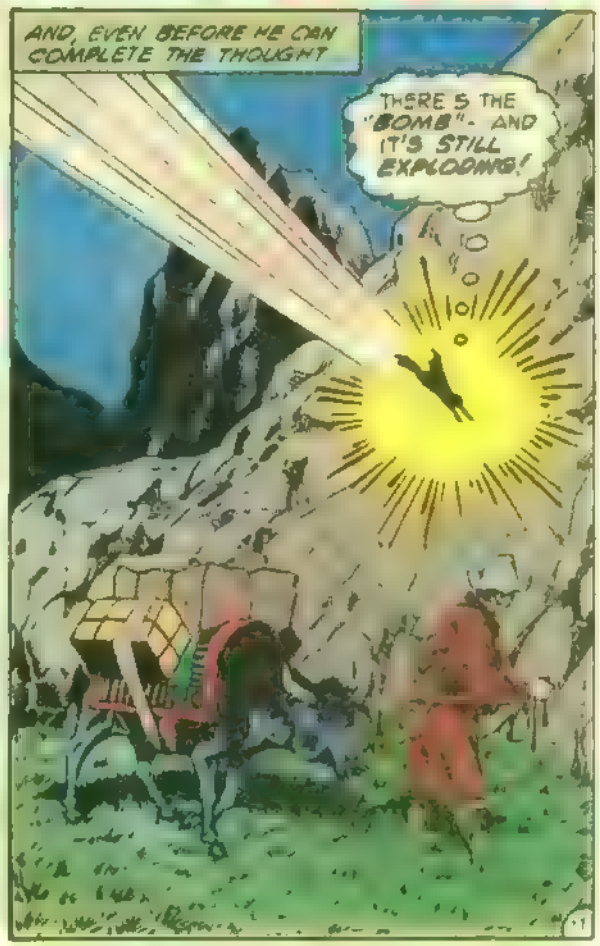
AND LESS THAN A HEARTBEAT LATER...
DID ANYBODY SEE WHAT HAPPENED?
I CAN ONLY TELL YOU WHAT I HEARD, JIM--AND IT SOUNDED TO ME LIKE SUPERMAN AND WHOEVER IT WAS WENT OUT THE WINDOW--
--THE HARD WAY!
WELL, WHOEVER THE THIEF WAS--HE GOT AWAY WITH MY RELIC!
BUT WHY WOULD HE STEAL THAT, DAD? NOBODY EVEN KNEW IT WAS HERE...OR WHAT IT WAS!
I THINK WE CAN SAFELY SAY THAT THE CROOK KNEW, LANA!
LET'S HOPE THAT OUR TV CAMERAMAN OR JIMMY GOT A SHOT OF HIM ON FILM!
THAT WILL GIVE US SOMETHING FOR OUR REPORT!
MMM... LIKE THE IDENTITY OF THE THIEF, PERHAPS?
DO ME A FAVOR, CLARK! DROP THIS FILM OFF IN THE PLANET DARKROOM TO BE DEVELOPED!
I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING I WANT TO CHECK OUT!
SURE, JIM! BUT WHAT--?
A HUNCH, CLARK! A NEWSMAN'S HUNCH--YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
DON'T WORRY, DAD--WITH SUPERMAN AFTER THE CROOK, YOUR FIND IS AS GOOD AS RECOVERED!
THAT'S EASY FOR LANA TO SAY!
9

LATER, BACK AT THE GALAXY BUILDING...
HERE'S OUR LEAD-OFF STORY, CLARK -- N.A.S.A. REPORTS A NEW SATELLITE IN ORBIT...
AND NOBODY KNOWS WHO LAUNCHED IT!
COULD BE A WEAPONS SATELLITE SOME HOSTILE NATION WAS HOPING TO SNEAK UP THERE, EH?
SOUNDS LIKE A STORY THAT COULD USE SOME FURTHER EXPLORATION!
PLANNING ON TAKING A QUICK FLIGHT TO CHECK IT OUT, LUV--
--OR HAVING A CERTAIN FRIEND DO IT FOR YOU?
LANA-- YOU KNOW A GOOD NEWSMAN NEVER REVEALS HIS TRICKS OF THE TRADE.
UH-HUH!
AND IF THERE IS ONE SECRET CLARK WILL NEVER REVEAL, IT'S JUST HOW CLOSE HE AND SUPERMAN ARE...
LANA'S SURE MADE A BIG TO-DO OVER THE "WORKING RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN MY TWO IDENTITIES...
...BUT I SUPPOSE IT BEATS ALL THE TIMES SHE TRIED PROVING THAT CLARK AND SUPERMAN WERE THE SAME PERSON!
THEN, AFTER A SUPER-VISION SEARCH...
THERE'S OUR MYSTERY ORBITER ...ODD, IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY IDENTIFYING MARKINGS!
EVEN MORE CURIOUS, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANY SATELLITE EVER LAUNCHED FROM EARTH!
IT LOOKS MORE LIKE A GLOBE OF SOME PLANET THAN ANYTHING ELSE!
BUT YOU CAN'T JUDGE A SATELLITE BY ITS CASING, TO COIN A PHRASE--
10

· SO I ... USE X-RAY VISION FOR A PEEK INSIDE!
GREAT KRYPTON! THE GLOBE IS EMPTY!
IT'S JUST A HOLLOW SHELL!

COULD IT HAVE BEEN A CARRIER FOR SOME DEADLY GAS?
NO -- MY MICROSCOPIC VISION SHOWS NO TRACES OF ANYTHING EVER HAVING BEEN INSIDE!
YET THIS UNEARTHLY ALLOY IT'S COMPOSED OF MEANS THE "PLANETOID" WAS PUT HERE BY EXTRA-TERRESTRIALS!

"BUT WHO -- WHY?"
WITH NO ANSWERS FORTHCOMING AND NO TRAIL TO FOLLOW, THE MAN OF STEEL HEADS BACK TO EARTH WHEN...
RAO! AN EXPLOSION LIGHTNING UP THE NIGHT-SKY ACROSS HALF OF ASIA!
BETTER SPEED DOWN THERE BEFORE THE FOLLOW-UP SHOCK WAVES SHAKE THE CONTINENT APART!


AND, EVEN BEFORE HE CAN COMPLETE THE THOUGHT
THERE S THE "BOMB" - AND IT'S STILL EXPLODING!

NO TELLING HOW MUCH WORLD-WIDE DISASTER T COULD CAUSE--
--AND I'D JUST AS SOON NOT FIND OUT--
...SO OFF IT GOES INTO SPACE BEFORE IT GOES KABOOM!
IF THERE WERE SOUND OUT HERE IN SPACE I'M SURE THE "KABOOM" ALONE WOULD'VE FLATTENED A SCORE OF CITIES BACK ON EARTH!
NOW I KNOW WHAT BATMAN MEANS WHEN HE SAYS HE GOT HIT WITH A BLOW THAT "RATTLES HIS TEETH"!
12

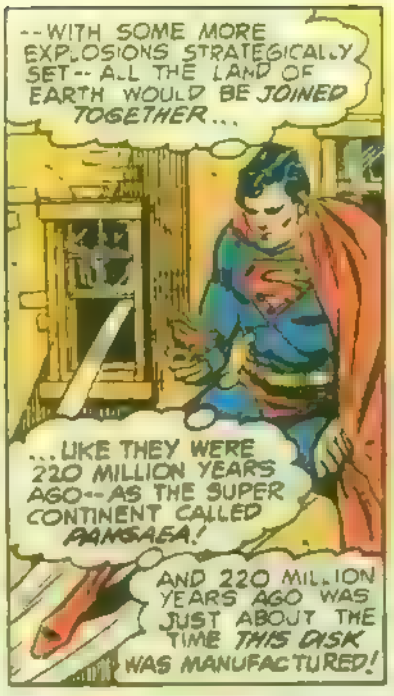
NOW TO TRY AND FIND OUT WHO TRIGGERED THAT EXPLOSIVE DEVICE!
IT PACKED ENOUGH MEGATONNAGE TO HAVE BLASTED INDIA RIGHT OUT OF THE ASIAN CONTINENT--EH?
ZEEE ZEEE ZEEEE ZEEE
THIS CALLS FOR A CHANGE IN DIRECTION!
ZEEE ZEEE ZEEE
JIMMY OLSEN'S USING HIS SIGNAL-WATCH... SOMETHING HE DOESN'T DO UNLESS HE'S IN BIG TROUBLE!
WHICH HE IS--! IN HIS APARTMENT IN METROPOLIS!
MY SUPER VISION REVEALS HE'S FACE-TO-FACE WITH..
THE EXPLODER!
WOW! YOU SURE GOT HERE IN A HURRY, SUPERMAN!
SOFTER SHOES
I WAS RIGHT, SUPERMAN! HE'S AFTER THAT CHUNK OF "MYSTERY DISK" MY DAD GAVE ME!
SOMEHOW HE WAS ABLE TO HOME IN ON IT!
JUST ONE OF THE MYSTERIES ABOUT THIS CHARACTER WE ARE GOING TO SOLVE, JIM--

STARTING RIGHT NOW!
TIME FOR AN END TO THE GAMES, EXPLODER!
SUDDENLY, OUT OF NOWHERE...
SUPERMAN--WATCH OUT!
I SEE IT--
--AND I'M TAKING DEFENSIVE MEASURES!
IT'S GONNA BLOW!
HIT THE DECK!
I'M KISSIN' THE CARPET! NO NEED TO TELL ME TWICE!

WHEW!! CONTAINED IT--!
IS IT SAFE TO PICK THE FUZZ OUT OF MY TEETH NOW?
THAT GUY PACKS QUITE A WALLOP IN THOSE LITTLE "BON-BONS"!
YES... AND IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED -- HE USED IT AS A COVER FOR HIS GETAWAY!
THAT'S THE THIRD... AND LAST... TIME HE'LL DO THAT!
WELL, JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU GET ANOTHER SHOT AT THAT EXPLODER -- TAKE THIS!
HE WAS IN SUCH A HURRY TO LEAVE, HE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO TAKE WHAT HE CAME FOR!
I WONDER WHAT IT IS ABOUT THIS THAT THE EXPLODER IS AFTER?
WHEN YOU FIND OUT, I WANT THE EXCLUSIVE!
"COUNT ON IT, JIM! AND MAYBE YOU'LL GET A BONUS TO HELP PAY FOR THE REPAIRS ON YOUR APARTMENT!"
I KNOW JUST THE PLACE TO KEEP THIS NOW -- TO MAKE SURE THE EXPLODER COMES RIGHT TO ME TO GET IT!
THE POUCH IN MY CAPE!
15

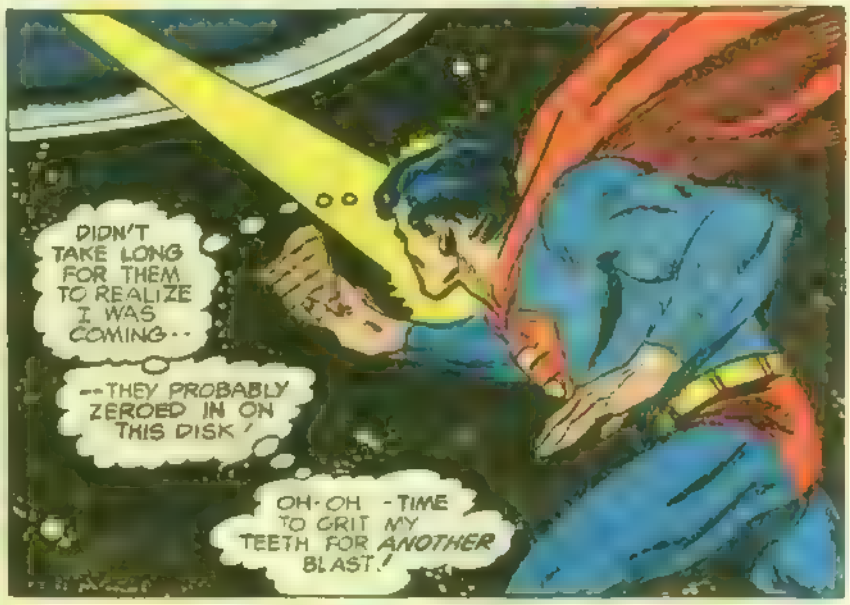
THIS SURE HAS BEEN A BUSY DAY: TWO ENCOUNTERS WITH THE MYSTERY EXPLODER--THE SECOND ERUPTION / EXPLOSION IN AS MANY DAYS-- AND A MYSTERY SATELLITE '
WHAT I NEED NOW IS SOME TIME TO THINK THIS OUT! THERE'S A LITTLE BELL RINGING IN THE BACK OF MY MIND, SAYING I SHOULD BE MAKING A CONNECTION I HAVEN'T.'
JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY'S OUT FOR LUNCH -- SO IF I CAN GET INTO MY OFFICE AND CLOSE THE DOOR...
CLARK! OH, CLARK-- HOLD UP A MINUTE!
AH, THE BEST-LAID PLANS.. / IT'S CONNIE NATCH, THE PLANET'S PUZZLE EDITOR!
WHAT'S UP, CONNIE?
I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE I'M STILL SCHEDULED TO BE ON THE 6 O'CLOCK NEWS TONIGHT.'
I'VE WORKED OUT A WHOLE BIT ON RUBIK'S CUBE AND THE "SPIN-OFFS" IT'S INSPIRED!
THAT'S UP TO DIRECTOR JOSH COYLE! IT LOOKS TO BE A BIG NEWS DAY!
ALL THE MORE REASON FOR A "LIGHT" SPOT! CHECK OUT ALL THESE TWIST-'EM-TURN-'EM PUZZLES!
THERE'S EVEN ONE THAT YOU TURN AND TWIST TO MAKE SUPERMAN'S "S" INSIGNIA!
I WONDER IF HE'S GOT THAT TRADEMARKED!
NEXT THING YOU KNOW, THEY'LL HAVE ONE THAT'S A GLOBE OF THE EARTH AND YOU'LL HAVE TO PUT THE CONTINENTS BACK WHERE THEY BELONG!
HEY! DID I SAY THAT?
IT'S SO CRAZY, IT'S GOT TO BE RIGHT!
I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER, CONNIE! THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO LOOK INTO!
16

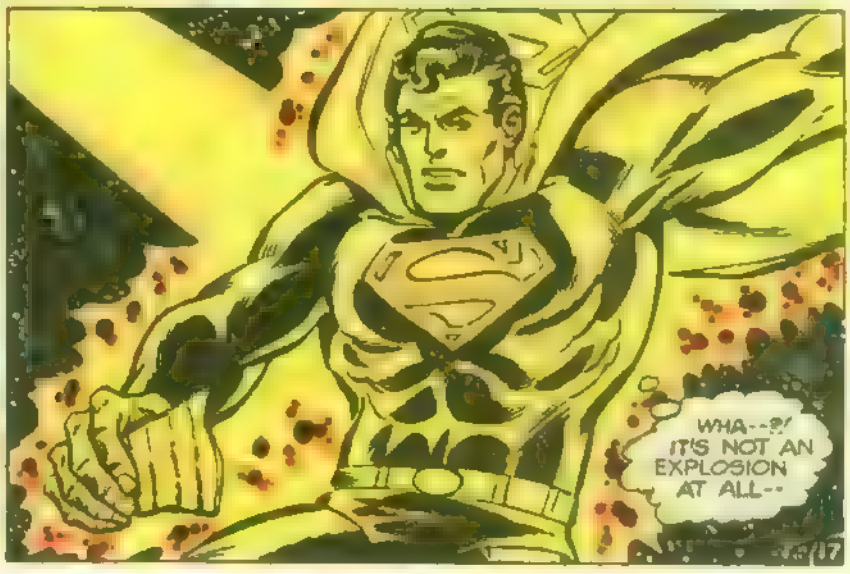
AND MOMENTS LATER, BACK IN THE STOREROOM...
THE EXPLOSIONS... THAT SATELLITE OVERHEAD!
IF THE LAND-MASSES WERE SET MOVING THE WAY THOSE BLASTS SENT THEM--


--WITH SOME MORE EXPLOSIONS STRATEGICALLY SET-- ALL THE LAND OF EARTH WOULD BE JOINED TOGETHER...
...LIKE THEY WERE 220 MILLION YEARS AGO--AS THE SUPER CONTINENT CALLED PANGAEA!
AND 220 MILLION YEARS AGO WAS JUST ABOUT THE TIME THIS DISK WAS MANUFACTURED!

THE ANSWER'S GOT TO BE OUT HERE IN SPACE! THE ALIENS THAT MADE THE SATELLITE MUST ALSO BE BEHIND WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING!
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND THEM--

-WHICH TURNED OUT EASIER THAN I EXPECTED!
FROM EARTH, THAT BLACK SPACESHIP WOULD BE ALL BUT INVISIBLE! UP HERE, HOWEVER, ITS OUTLINE IS DEFINED BY THE STARS IT'S BLOCKING OUT!


DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR THEM TO REALIZE I WAS COMING--
--THEY PROBABLY ZEROED IN ON THIS DISK!
OH-OH -TIME TO GRIT MY TEETH FOR ANOTHER BLAST!


WHA--?! IT'S NOT AN EXPLOSION AT ALL--

IT'S A TRANSPORTER BEAM!
I'M INSIDE THEIR SHIP!
GREETINGS, EARTH-BEING! WELCOME-- HOW DO YOU SAY IT?--YES, WELCOME ABOARD!
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, EXPLODER? WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?
SURELY SUPERMAN, IF YOU ARE INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO HAVE FOUND US--
--YOU CAN ANSWER YOUR OWN QUESTIONS!
VERY WELL-- I'LL GIVE IT A TRY! LET ME FIRST EXPLAIN THE "FACTS" AS I INTERPRET THEM
THAT IS TRUE ENOUGH! WE HAVE OBSERVED THE BIRTH AND DEATH OF STARS AND SOLAR SYSTEMS DURING OUR INTERGALACTIC TRAVELS!
WE HAVE DEVELOPED METHODS OF PRESERVING OUR BODIES ENDLESSLY, SO THAT OUR MENTAL ENERGIES CONTINUOUSLY HAVE A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT!
YOU ARE FROM ANOTHER GALAXY AND YOU LEFT YOUR HOME PLANET MANY MILLENNIA AGO!
THEREFORE, IN EARTH-TERMS, YOU ARE ALL BUT IMMORTAL!
PROCEED WITH YOUR ANALYSIS, SUPERMAN...
WHEN YOU FIRST VISITED EARTH, HUMANKIND HAD NOT AS YET EVOLVED ON THE PLANET!
WHEN YOU LAST SAW IT, AT THAT PERIOD IN TIME, THERE WAS BUT ONE LAND-MASS -- WE CALL IT PANGAEA -- AS REPRESENTED BY THE "MINIATURE EARTH" YOU PLACED IN ORBIT!
AND WHY DID WE DO THAT--?

--TO SERVE AS A GEOGRAPHICAL GUIDE FOR RETURNING THE SEPARATED CONTINENTS TO THEIR ORIGINAL POSITION--
--PRESUMABLY SO THAT YOU CAN FIND SOMETHING...
...THAT SOMETHING BEING THE PIECES OF THIS DISK! I FIGURE YOU'RE PARTICIPATING IN SOME KIND OF COSMIC TREASURE HUNT!
YOUR SURMISES ARE WELL-THOUGHT OUT, IF NOT ENTIRELY CORRECT!
ACTUALLY, WE OURSELVES HAVE NEVER BEEN TO THIS PLANET BEFORE! COSMIC EONS AGO..
"...ANOTHER OF OUR RACE JOURNEYED HERE ON A MISSION--TO CONCEAL FIVE FRAGMENTS OF A DISK SOMEWHERE ON THE PLANET
"KNOWING THAT EARTH'S NATURAL OCCURRENCES OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME WOULD MAKE THE FRAGMENTS EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT TO FIND.
"UPON COMPLETION OF HIS TASK, HE BEGAN THE LONG JOURNEY BACK HOME--
"WHERE WE AND OTHER TREASURE-HUNTERS ANXIOUSLY WAITED!"
WAITED FOR THE SIGNAL TO BEGIN THE SEARCH FOR THIS WORLD AND THE "PRIZE" HE'D HIDDEN!
EXACTLY! WHEN ONE LIVES FOREVER, SUCH PUZZLE-SOLVING IS NEEDED TO RELIEVE THE BOREDOM!
OUR ONLY CLUE WAS THE GLOBE WE PLACED IN ORBIT AROUND YOUR WORLD!
"WE SEARCHED GALAXIES FROM ONE END OF THE UNIVERSE TO THE OTHER, OBSERVED LIFE IN ALL ITS STAGES ON MYRIADS OF CELESTIAL BODIES.
"...YET NO WORLD MATCHED THE UNIQUE ONE OF OUR HUNT!
"SO WITH UNLIMITED TIME IN A LIMITED UNIVERSE WE CONTINUED OUR SEARCH--

"--UNTIL WE CAME ACROSS THIS PLANET OF YOURS!
"OUR COMPUTATIONS TOLD US THAT-- THOUGH THE SURFACE HAD CHANGED CONSIDERABLY-- EARTH WAS INDEED THE OBJECT OF OUR SEARCH."
"FURTHER VERIFICATION OF THE DISK'S EXISTENCE ON YOUR PLANET CAME WITH THE OBSERVATION OF THE GLOWING SEGMENTS
"--A RADIATION SIGNAL ONLY WE ARE SENSITIVE TO!"
"THEN THAT EXPLAINS WHY YOU ATTACKED OUR AIRCRAFT! PROFESSOR LANG WAS ON BOARD, CARRYING THE DISK SEGMENT HE DUG UP IN EGYPT!
"AND YOU JUST AS EASILY MOWED IN ON THE CHUNK MARK IX SEEN DISCOVERED IN SOUTH AMERICA--"
--WHICH YOU HAVE SO HELPFULLY BROUGHT TO US! AND NOW, WE MUST PROCEED WITH UNEARTHING THE REMAINING SEGMENTS OF THE DISK!"
YOU UNDERSTAND BY NOW THAT WE MEAN YOU NO HARM--
WHAT YOU MEAN AND WHAT YOU DO ARE NOT THE SAME! MOVING OUR CONTINENTS AROUND WOULD BE A DISASTER TO ALL FORMS OF LIFE ON EARTH!
IT IS A SITUATION THAT CANNOT BE TOLERATED!
CORRECTION! IT IS A SITUATION THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED!
ON A COSMIC SCALE EARTH IS MERELY A PLANETARY MOTE!
IT WILL NOT BE MISSED IF IT IS LOST TO THE GAME!

THEN WE HAVE A DIFFERENCE TO SETTLE--FOR I HAVE NO INTENTION OF ALLOWING YOU TO GAIN A PRIZE AT THE COST OF EARTH-LIVES!
YOUR BRAVADO AMUSES US, SUPERMAN! INDEED, YOUR INTERFERENCE WILL MAKE THE HUNT MORE OF A CHALLENGE FOR US... AND FOR THAT, WE THANK YOU!
AS WE ARE, IN YOUR TERMS IMMORTAL--WE CAN WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE DEAD TO PROCEED.
OTHER CHAMPIONS WILL ARISE TO TAKE MY PLACE!
THEN WE SHALL WAIT UNTIL YOUR ENTIRE RACE BECOMES EXTINCT!
YOU WILL WAIT FOREVER IF WE DISCOVER THE SECRET OF IMMORTALITY!
THAT WOULD INDEED BE BORING! YOU LEAVE US NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO PROCEED WITH MOVING YOUR CONTINENTS--
THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE! I VOLUNTEER TO FIND THE PORTIONS OF THE DISK FOR YOU!
WHEN I HAND THEM OVER TO YOU, YOU MUST LEAVE EARTH UNDISTURBED!
AND SHOULD YOU FAIL--?
I DON'T ANTICIPATE FAILING!
MOREOVER I'LL SUCCEED WITHOUT REARRANGING THE FACE OF EARTH--
WITH THE [illegible] OF SUPER VISION!

VERY WELL! YOU HAVE ONE ORBIT'S TIME TO FULFILL YOUR TASK! OTHERWISE, WE SHALL PROCEED...
NORTH AMERICA
SOUTH AMERICA
AUSTRALIA
THE PATTERN IS BASICALLY A DIAMOND-SHAPE...
...WHICH MAKES MY FIRST STOP CALIFORNIA!
THE PREHISTORIC HIDING PLACE WHERE THE ALIEN HID A SEGMENT IS NOW THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT!
GOT TO BE CAREFUL BURROWING DOWN, OR I'LL DO MORE DAMAGE THAN THE EXPLODER!
SCRUNCH!
GOT IT! TWO MORE FRAGMENTS TO GO!
NEXT STOP-- ANTARCTICA!
THERE IT IS-- BURIED DEEP IN THE ICE!
WHEN THE ALIEN ORIGINALLY BURIED THE PIECE, THIS AREA WAS LUSH FOREST!

FROM THE ANTARCTIC COLD TO THE TROPICAL AFRICAN JUNGLE...
NOW FOR THE LAST CHUNK AT THE INTERSECTION POINT OF THE LINES ACROSS THE DIAMOND SHAPE!
DEEP IN THE JUNGLE--BUT NOT DEEP IN THE GROUND!
WHOOOSH
AND WHEN THE MAN OF STEEL TRIUMPHANTLY RETURNS TO THE SPACESHIP...
THERE YOU HAVE IT--THE COMPLETE DISK!
WE HAVE BOTH WON, EXPLODER!
ON THE CONTRARY, SUPERMAN--ONLY YOU HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL...
...FOR US THIS IS MERELY A CLUE TO OUR NEXT MOVE!
THE TREASURE ITSELF IS HIDDEN ELSEWHERE IN THIS SOLAR SYSTEM--
--ON THE FIFTH PLANET!
I HAVE BAD NEWS FOR YOU, EXPLODER--THERE NO LONGER IS ANY PLANET WHERE YOUR DISK INDICATES.
ALL THAT IS THERE NOW IS THE ASTEROID BELT--
--THE REMAINS OF A PLANET THAT ONCE WAS THERE--UNTIL IT EXPLODED AGES AGO!
THE FRAGMENTS WENT OFF IN EVERY DIRECTION, BECOMING METEOROIDS, THE ASTEROID BELT, MOONS OF PLANETS, POSSIBLY EVEN THE PLANET PLUTO!

A CHECK WITH THE COMPUTER REVEALS--
--WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE! A FIFTH PLANET DID EXIST BETWEEN YOUR MARS AND JUPITER!
AND NOW IT'S GONE--AS IS YOUR HOPE OF WINNING THE TREASURE HUNT!
NOT SO! THE TREASURE WE SEEK IS INDESTRUCTIBLE! THEREFORE IT STILL EXISTS SOMEWHERE!
OUR TREASURE-HUNT GOES ON... AND ON!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE, SUPERMAN!
YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS NO LONGER NECESSARY--SO BEGONE!
TALK ABOUT YOUR FAST GOODBYES!
WHAT A STRANGE LIFE THEY LEAD! IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME IF THAT TREASURE IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ALIEN TRINKET!
THEY LEFT SO QUICKLY, THEY NEGLECTED TO TAKE THIS EARTH-GLOBE WITH THEM!
WELL, IT'LL MAKE A NICE SOUVENIR...
THE "EARTH" EXPLODED--PROBABLY DESTROYED BY REMOTE-CONTROL!
WHAT AN EXPERIENCE! I BATTLED A "VILLAIN" WHO BESTED ME THREE TIMES--
--AND MET REPRESENTATIVES OF A RACE WHOSE PLANET I MAY NEVER DISCOVER!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THOSE IMMORTALS WERE CALLED!
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--AND SUPERMAN ASSURES US WE HAVE SEEN THE LAST OF THE EXPLODER, THE STRANGE SATELLITE, AND THE MYSTERY EXPLOSIONS!
I GUESS WE CAN TAKE HIS WORD FOR IT, EH, LANA?
GBS
IF YOU SAY SO, CLARK!
COMING UP-- CONNIE HATCH WITH A SPECIAL REPORT ON A CRAZE THAT'S GOT ALL AMERICA TWISTING AND TURNING ...AFTER THESE MESSAGES!
YOU'D THINK SUPERMAN WOULD GIVE ME AN EXCLUSIVE NOW AND THEN! WE ARE LONG-TIME FRIENDS AFTER ALL--
NO! GONE AGAIN--?!
WHAT CAN I TELL YOU, LANA?
I KNOW, JOSH-- I KNOW...
SECURITY ARMOR
"CLARK WILL BE BACK IN TWO MINUTES WITH ANOTHER EXCLUSIVE STORY!
SECURITY ARMOR
"HOW DOES HE DO IT?! HOW DOES HE DO IT!?"
THE END
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